

Appl. No.: 10/691,420
Amdt. dated October 25, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 25, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner rejected claims 4 and 32-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The Examiner did not explain, nor can Applicants determine, why claim 4 is improper under § 112, second paragraph. Clarification is requested. Applicants have amended claim 32 to provide antecedent basis for the "first direction" limitation.

As for the art rejections, independent claims 1 and 32 have been amended to include the limitations of receiving "a deformable material strip," and that "the deformable material strip is curved in a plane substantially perpendicular to the first direction and such that a cross-sectional shape of the deformable material strip is substantially maintained." Support for the added limitation can be found throughout the specification, for example in Figure 6 and the corresponding description text. None of the cited art discloses at least the above-mentioned features of amended claims 1 and 32. At least for this reason, claims 1 and 32 and all claims dependent thereon are allowable.

Applicants further added new claims 44 to 48, based on claims indicated as allowable in the final Office Action when rewritten in independent form and including all the limitation of any intervening claims. Claim 39 has been cancelled.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.36(a), and any fees required are hereby charged to Conley Rose, P.C.'s Deposit Account Number 03-2769/2060-02200.

Respectfully submitted,



Jonathan M. Harris
Reg. No. 44,144
Attorney for Applicants
Conley Rose, P.C.
P.O. Box 3267
Houston, Texas 77253-3267
Ph: (713) 238-8000